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Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Letter dated 9 February 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement by the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation on the inadmissibility of discrimination against Russian media in the Republic of Moldova (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 72 (b).

(*Signed*) V. **Nebenzia**

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Annex to the letter dated 9 February 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Decision of the State Duma concerning the statement by the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation on the inadmissibility of discrimination against Russian media in the Republic of Moldova

The State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation hereby decides:

1. To adopt the statement by the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation on the inadmissibility of discrimination against Russian media in the Republic of Moldova.

2. To transmit the present decision and the aforementioned statement to the Government of the Russian Federation, the United Nations, the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova and the parliaments of the States members of the European Union.

3. To transmit the present decision and the aforementioned statement to the Parliamentary Gazette for official publication.

4. This decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

(*Signed*) V. V. **Volodin**
Chairman of the State Duma
of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

Statement by the State Duma on the inadmissibility of discrimination against Russian media in the Republic of Moldova

The President of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, Mr. Andrian Candu, has signed a law amending and supplementing the Broadcasting Code of the Republic of Moldova on 10 January 2018, despite it having been twice rejected by the President of the Republic of Moldova, Mr. Igor Dodon. The law effectively prohibits the broadcasting of Russian newscasts and news analysis programmes for television and radio.

The State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation regards these actions by the coordinator of the ruling coalition, Mr. Vlad Plahotniuc, who has become the de facto ruler of the Republic of Moldova, as being in flagrant violation of universally accepted international legal norms relating to freedom of information and as infringing the rights of a large number of the citizens of the Republic of Moldova, and believes that these actions represent yet another example of anti-Russian behaviour.

The deputies of the State Duma firmly condemn the trampling of democracy and the totalitarian suppression of alternative points of view taking place in the Republic of Moldova.

The State Duma calls on the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to take a principled stand against the flagrant violation of article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and article 10 of the Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms produced by the adoption of this law.

The State Duma recommends that the Government of the Russian Federation develop a set of measures designed to give the people of the Republic of Moldova alternative means of access to Russian newscasts and news analysis programmes.

The State Duma proposes that the Government of the Russian Federation, together with Russian media outlets (broadcasting and cable companies), examine the possibility of changing the terms governing the broadcasting (rebroadcasting) of Russian-made audiovisual content in the Republic of Moldova, including the termination of the relevant contracts owing to their incompatibility with the new environment in which the free dissemination of information is restricted.

(*Signed*) V. V. **Volodin**
Chairman of the State Duma
of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation